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SOME NOTES ON THE
Evesham Branch
OF THE
Washbourne Family,
BY
E. A. B. BARNARD, F.S.A.



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EVESHAM, ENGLAND:
W. & H. SMITH LIMITED, The Journal Press.
1914.

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Presented by
Leannette G. W. Kelsey -
17th June 1916 -

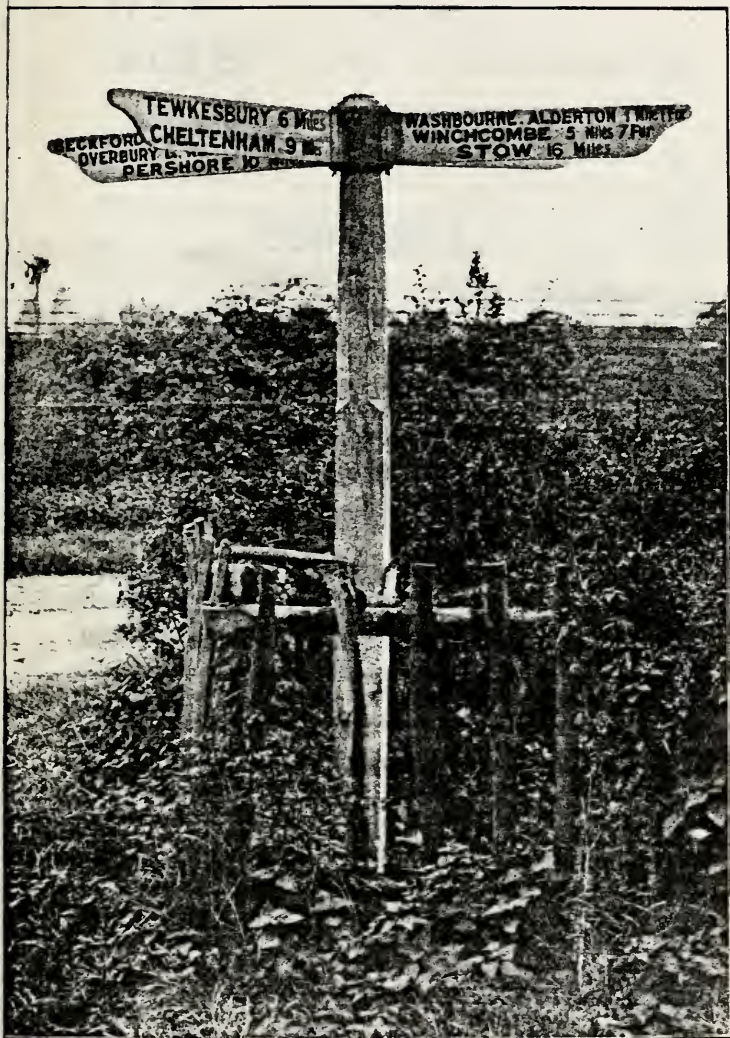
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The Way to Washbourne.

G. W. Kelsey

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CONTENTS.

| | Page. |
|---|-------|
| Chapter I.—Great and Little Washbourne ... | 1-6 |
| „ II.—Evesham in the time of the John Washbournes ... | 7-34 |
| „ III.—The Washbourne Tile from Eves- ham Abbey ... | 35-36 |
| „ IV.—The Washbourne Crest ... | 37-41 |
| „ V.—The Evesham and the Wichenford Branches of the Family ... | 42-46 |
| „ VI.—The Second Generation in America ... | 47-54 |
| Appendix ... | 55-60 |

CHAPTER I.

GREAT AND LITTLE WASHBOURNE.

Seven miles south-east from Evesham, at a point where the main road to Cheltenham passes the railway station of Beckford, there is a sign-post one arm of which points to "Washbourne." It would have been more correct had the legend been "The Washbournes," for the road leads to Great Washbourne with the low-lying Washbourne Hills facing the little village, whilst just across the fields, a little further along the road, is the tiny hamlet of Little Washbourne.

Another point of approach is from the famous Teddington Milestone, a mile further along the main road, and here one is able to obtain a better idea of the delightful surroundings of The Washbournes. Far away in the distance lies the majestic range of the Malverns, with Bredon Hill close at hand, and nearer still, the Hills of Washbourne, Alderton, and Oxenton, whilst the circle is almost completed by the long stretch of the Cotswolds as they run from Broadway to Winchcombe and then down to the west. Through this little corner of Gloucestershire runs a brook turbulent enough in spring-time as it winds its way down to the little River Carrant, and passes through damp meads close beneath the Church of Little Washbourne. This is the stream which gives a name to the villages, for they doubtless derive their prefix from the Anglo-Saxon

Wæsc. flood, in reference to the character of the stream.

It was amid such surroundings then that members of the Washbourne Family flourished for centuries, of whom the earliest-named member was apparently one Sampson, whose date is lost in the mists of antiquity.

The first appearance of the name in existing records is in the Domesday Book, to which Rudder refers in the account of Great Washbourne in his History of Gloucestershire (1779). It is of interest to note fully his remarks concerning the village. He says:—

“ Washbourne (Great). Is a small parish in the upper division of Tewkesbury Hundred, 7 miles eastward from the town of that name, five north from Winchcombe, and about 15 N.E. from Gloucester. It lies in the Vale, and has a small brook which runs into the River Carrant. It is one of those places of which there is little mention, except in rent-rolls and books of account where, I suppose, it makes a handsome figure, for the soil is rich and fertile, and the greater part of the land is pasture. However, Anthony a Wood takes notice that the great traveller, John Cartwright was of this parish and published his travels into Judaea, Persia, and other Eastern parts in the year 1611.

Washbourn belonged to the Church of Tewkesbury when Domesday was compiled, for the record takes notice that the Abbey held three hides in Waseburne, and that there were two plow-tillages

and six villeins, with three plow-tillages ; and one bordar and nine servi with one ancilla.

After the dissolution of the Abbey of Tewkesbury this Manor was granted to Anne Fortescue, widow of Sir Adrian Fortescue, and to the heirs males of Sir Adrian, 5 Mariae. Sir Francis Fortescue was lord of it in the year 1608. It passed afterwards to Mr. Starkey, and is now vested in Lord Craven, who holds a court leet."

Again, in Domesday, under Worcestershire (vide accompanying illustration), we learn that in the Hundred of Oswaldslow, the Church of Worcester holds. . . . three hides at Waseburne, which were held by Urso (Sheriff of Worcestershire), who had there three carucates and five villeins, and four bordars with two carucates ; there are five acres of meadow ; it was and is worth forty shillings. Ulmer held it, and afterwards was made a monk, but the Bishop took his land.

Great Washbourne at the present time (1914) has a population of seventy-seven, who live mostly in the cottages, which run down from the church on either side of the little village street. The little quaint church is dedicated to St. Mary, and is very Early Norman, indeed so early that it may be pre-Norman. There is a Norman arch over the south door, possessing several interesting features.

A few hundred yards across the fields and we are in Little Washbourne, which consists of a little church, one large farm-house and a few cottages, and boasts a population of twenty-three. Formerly

it was in the county of Worcester, and the historian Nash, in his History published in 1782, thus writes of it :—

“ Little Washborne, antiently Wasseborne, owing her tithes with a yard land to St. Faith of Overbury, her funerals to Alston, and her temporal service to the court at Bredon, lies two miles east from Overbury. It is sometimes called Knight's Washbourne, from the knightly family of the Washbornes, who took their surnames from hence ; for men generally have their names from towns, and not towns from men. Of this family were Sir Roger and Sir John Washborne before the reign of Edward III., as appeared by a record which Mr. Habingdon saw in the possession of Sir Richard St. George ; in their coat armour they quartered the arms of Zouche, Corbet, Wysham, Walshe, and Blount, they bore likewise the arms of the Earl of Warwick's second son, perhaps only as a kinsman or clients to that mighty Earl. This family flourished here till John Washbourne married Joan, daughter of Sir John Musard, knight of the shire in parliament, 29 Ed. III., and having by her one only daughter named Isolde, who married John Salwey, of Kank, in Staffordshire, she carried with her Stanford Sturmy. Her father John Washborne marrying to his second wife Margaret daughter and co-heir of John Poher, lord of Wichenford, had by her Norman Washborne, who after various law suits with the Salweys, retired to his mother's estate in Wichenford, where the family continued for six generations, when Mr. John Washborne left Wash-

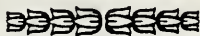
borne and Wichenford to his nephew. Washborne contains 430 acres."

The little church here is also dedicated to St. Mary, and it is of interest to place on record the following reference to it which appeared in the columns of the "Evesham Standard," November 9, 1912 :—

"On All Saints Day the ancient Church of St. Mary, Little Washbourne, was re-opened after 14 years' disuse. Some years ago Sir R. B. Martin, of Overbury Court, had the walls of the church buttressed to prevent the church becoming a ruin. Quite recently, through the liberality of Mrs. Eyres Monsell, a new roof has been put on (Messrs. Collins and Godfrey, of Tewkesbury, being the contractors), and Mrs. Eyres Monsell has also arranged to rail off a portion of ground, 10 yards all round the church, for a churchyard. A subscription list has been opened for providing the necessary furniture and ornaments for the interior, which has also been renovated. At 9 a.m. there was a celebration of Holy Communion, and at 7 p.m. special Evensong with thanksgiving for the re-opening of the church combined with a harvest thanksgiving. To further celebrate the occasion, Mr. Edwin Hearle, of Little Washborne Farm, gave an "At Home," and the choirs of Overbury and Alston assisted at the service."

The Washbournes of Washbourne are long ago departed from the lands from which they took their name, and their descendants are scattered far and

wide about the world. So one thinks whilst closing the door of the little church in which many a Washbourne must have worshipped. Upon this door flutters in the wind a List of Voters for the year 1913, and in that List appears the name of Harry Washbourne, Middle Farm, Oxenton. So, just round Oxenton Hill, some two miles off, there is still a Washbourne at this day, and not very far away—at Bredon—there are others of the name too.



CHAPTER II. EVESHAM IN THE TIME OF THE JOHN WASHBOURNES.

The first record of a representative of the Washbourne Family in the Registers of the Evesham Parish of St. Peter's, Bengeworth, runs thus:—

1539. Buried. Item the 23 ffeb.

Thomas Wasborne.*

Closely following this entry come the following:—

1542. "Item the 21th daye of Apryll were married

John Wasborne and Jone Bushell."

1543. 12 June. Margaret Wasborne Christened.

1544. 5 Oct. Johanne Wasborne. Bapt.

1546. 8 Jan. John Wasborne. Bur.

In the Parish Registers of All Saints, Evesham, the earliest Washbourne entry is:—

4 Aug. 1539. William Washborne married to Elizabeth Clybery.

Other Washbournes may have lived in these parishes before this time, but there is no direct evidence that such was the case.

However, the name had long existed in the neighbourhood of Evesham, the earliest mention of it appearing in the Lay Subsidy Roll for the County of Worcester (c. 1280) where, under the village of Bretforton—some three miles away—we find a payment for land:—

*Edward Steynrodde, Bengeworth, making his will on 20 July, 1530, bequeathed "to Thomas Washburn a doublet of fustian stocked with worsted."

De Johanne Wasburn' ... ij.s.
 In the Lay Subsidy Roll of 1327, again under Bretforton, is:—

De Roberto de Wassebourne ... ij.s.
 and in the Lay Subsidy Roll of 1332, under the same village-name, is:—

De Roberto de Salsseberne ... ij.s. vj.d.
 The difficulties in the decipherment of this Roll are great, but there is no doubt that this last entry is intended for Washbourne.

Nothing is known of the above-mentioned Bengeworth and Evesham members of the Family beyond these entries in the Registers until we come to the John Washbourne, husbandman, who was buried "within the ecclesiastical sepulture of my parish church of Bengeworth," in January, 1546.

The place-name Bengeworth, which has had many variants, is—according to the late Professor Skeat—derived from the Anglo-Saxon personal name Benning = Benna + ing — son of Benna, and the common Anglo-Saxon terminal worth, home-stead, farm, estate, property. Thus we have Bengeworth signifying the farm or estate of Benning or of the son of Benna, and from that period until now—allowing for the large amount of house-building which has been carried out in the parish during the last ten or fifteen years—the parish has always consisted of farm grounds, many of which have been converted into market gardens and fruit grounds as the local industry progressed.

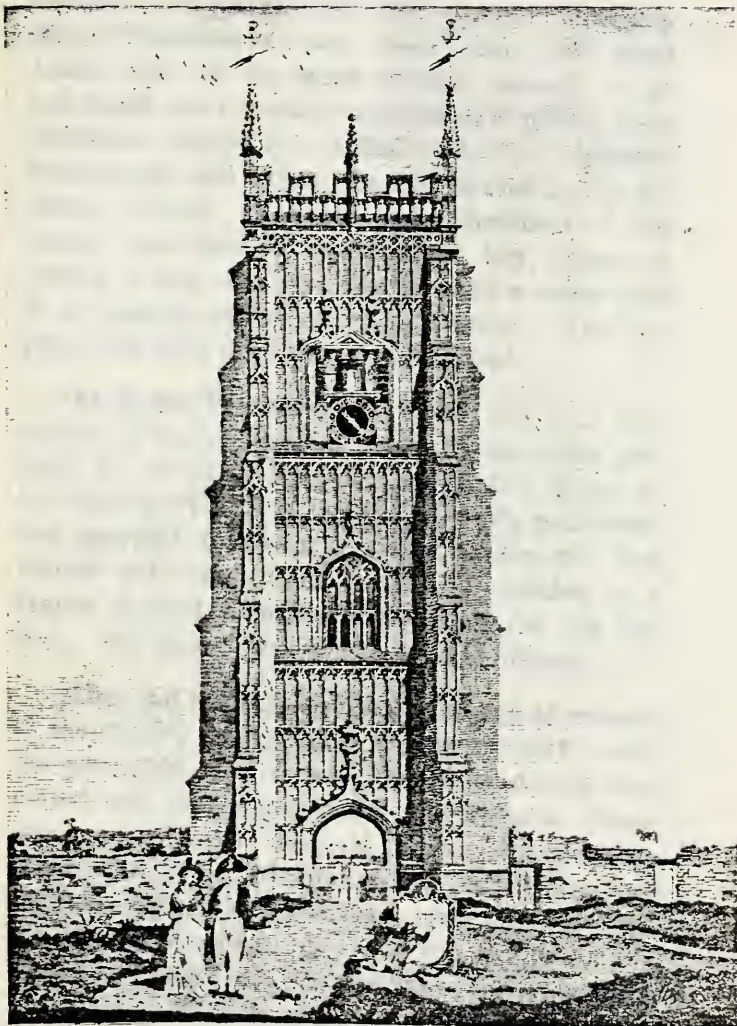
In Bengeworth the Prior of Evesham had his mansion in the early part of the 13th Century, at which time the first Church was built there and dedicated to St. Peter, albeit some historians—with no apparent proof—attribute the dedication to the Holy Trinity, and the founders to have been Leofric, Earl of Mercia, and his renowned wife, Godiva. Scattered thinly around the Church and the Prior's mansion were the dwelling-houses of the tenants of the Abbey lands in the parish, but as the years went by the number of tenants increased, and the straggling hamlet gradually developed into the "vill" of the Middle Ages, and at the time of the approach of the Dissolution of the Monasteries it would appear to have possessed a prosperous little community. It was at this period that John Washbourne, the husbandman, lived in the parish, farmed his own land, and died, leaving the greater part of his possessions to his wife, Emme, and his two married sons and two daughters. He was evidently a well-to-do man, as his will, preserved in the Worcester Probate Registry, attests, and he bequeathed "all my houses lands and grounds. . . . lyinge within the towne and filde of Bengeworth," to his wife. She did not long survive him, however, and died the next year, probate of her will being granted in June, 1547.

It is probable that John and Emme had lived on their Bengeworth lands during a critical period, not only in the history of the country, but in the history of Evesham. About the

year 1528 Abbot Clement Lichfield commenced the erection of his New Bell Tower within the Abbey precincts, and they may have watched from Bengeworth as it gradually rose into being and became a new feature amid the glorious cluster of the monastic buildings high above the water on the other side of the Avon. Year by year the Tower progressed; nearer and nearer came the doom of the Monastery, and in 1539 its fate was sealed. Possibly the beauty and tender age of the Bell Tower, and the fact that it had been constructed by local workmen at the behest of a dearly-beloved Abbot, stayed the spoiler's hand. The Tower remains unfinished till this day, although to the casual observer this is not apparent.

We may easily imagine the sorrow which must have filled the minds of devout Churchmen such as were the Washbournes, when they saw and heard how the Abbey was being torn to pieces in those succeeding years, and how the altars and shrines at which they must have so often worshipped and prayed had been shattered, and scattered over all the countryside.

Thus seven years passed away, and then the body of our first John Washbourne, of Bengeworth, had been—for we may believe that the terms of his will were carried into effect—"honestly brought unto the sepulture with solemne dirige and masse for my soule and all christen soules." A few months before his decease there had died one who has been already mentioned and who is famous in Evesham history for all time, Clement



Evesham Bell Tower in 1794.

(Reproduced from Tindal's History of Evesham).

Lichfield, fifty-fifth and last Abbot. Probably John Washbourne had often seen the great Abbot and, if he were unable himself to go and watch the funeral procession as it passed from Offenham, where the Abbot had died, through Bengeworth and across the Old Bridge up to All Saints Church, no doubt some members of his family were there to render their last tokens of respect to one who had played such a noble part in the history of the Abbey and town. The last great link with the Abbey had snapped.

At Emme Washbourne's death she was succeeded in the possessions of the Bengeworth property by her elder son John, under the terms of his father's will. This John apparently prospered, and married twice—or possibly thrice—his first known wife being Jone Bushell, a member of a family of good standing in Evesham and the district. His second wife was a Jone Whithead.

After the Dissolution little is known at present of the history of Evesham and Bengeworth until the year 1604, and it was practically during this period that the second John Washbourne flourished, aged, and died in 1593. From some years prior to the Dissolution the Abbey lands of Bengeworth had been let for a term, and in 1539 the Manor came naturally into the hands of the Crown, its total issues during that year amounting to nearly £100. For some years it continued in the Crown, the courts being held by the Crown bailiffs, and gradually, as various tenements were

granted out, its issues decreased. It seems possible that in addition to farming his own land the second John Washbourne availed himself of this opportunity to acquire additional property but, so far as one can say, his will is not now extant, and we can only judge of his prosperity by the items of the Inventory of his possessions which is also preserved at Worcester. (I.)

The letter (II.) which Abbot Lichfield and his monks had addressed to Thomas Cromwell, the Lord Privy Seal, in the vain hope that they would be able to ward off the impending destruction of the Abbey throws a very interesting light upon the condition of Evesham and the neighbourhood at the time when the first John Washbourne was farming his lands at Bengeworth. They wrote—the actual date of the letter is unknown—thus:—

“To the Rt. Hon. Sir Thomas Crumwell,
Knight, Lord Crumwell, Lord Privy Seal,
and Vicegerent of the Church of England.

“Pleaseth it your honourable Lordship to have
in remembrance your poor Orators the Abbot
and Convent of the Monastery of Evesham,
in the county of Worcester, having no other
comfort or refuge but only unto your good
Lordship. That whereas the King's graci-
ous Majesty of his most excellent benignity

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- I. This Inventory, together with transcriptions of other Washbourne (Bengeworth) Wills and Inventories, is given on pp. 37-45 of the Rev. James Davenport's valuable work: “The Washbourne Family.”
 - II. Misc. Lett. temp. Henry VIII. ser. II. Vol. X Aug. Off P.R.O.

and godly disposition, and for the great zeal and continual princely love that his Highness hath always borne to this Church of England, is minded, like a most gracious Prince, to alter and change the Monasteries of this his Realm, as well for the true and sincere preaching and teaching of the Word of God unto his poor and loving subjects, as for the education and bringing up of youth in virtue and true knowledge of the same, as also for the relieving and succouring of the poor, needy, lame and impotent persons inhabiting the same his grace's realm; it may please your honorable Lordship, of your abundant goodness to tender your poor orators which most desirously covet and wish the true Word of God to be known, and also that youth may be educated and nourished in the knowledge and learning of the same; and further desiring the charitable succour and relief of the poor, needy, lame and impotent people, as well in the town of Evesham as in the country nigh thereunto adjoining: So that the said Monastery, which is of the King's Grace's most noble foundation (as endowed by Ethelred his predecessor) may be one of those Monasteries which his Grace doth so godly intend of dispose and reserve as to his princely wisdom and most gracious intent shall seem most decent and expedient, in consideration of the articles herein after declared: that is to say, for that the said Mon-

astery is the metest house in all the country there to be reserved for any such princely and godly purpose, as well for the pleasant situation of the same in goodly, wholesome air, as that it is situated in the town of Evesham aforesaid, through which town there is a great thoroughfare and passage to Wales, as for that the said Monastery is a house of goodly lodging and building well repaired with all necessary houses of office belonging to the same, meet to receive the King's most noble grace and person, with his royal Court, at such times as shall please his Highness to repair, or have recourse to the said parties: And the said Monastery is situated within the Principality of Wales, and nigh where the King's most honorable Council of his Marches of Wales doth continue and is in the ready way to receive and lodge all such noblemen as shall have fortune to have cause to resort toward or forward the said Council: and also adjoining to the shire of Warwick in which there is no Monastery standing; and that the said Monastery is exempt from the Bishop, having a goodly jurisdiction in itself, in the hindrance and hurt of no person, and near immediate to the King's Grace as Supreme Head of his Church of England: And that the same Monastery is and hath been always reputed a house of keeping of good hospitality, and hath good provision for the same: And is out of debt

save only to the King's Grace for part of the First Fruits, about the sum of £800, which is payable at sundry years yet to come: And that there is no such Monastery to all intent within the compass of twelve miles of the same. Furthermore, humbly advertising your Lordship that the said town of Evesham is well inhabited and likewise well repaired at the only cost and charge of the said Monastery, wherein there are but few Inns and not able to receive and lodge all such noblemen as shall repair and resort to the same town, nor have any good provision for such purpose without the said Monastery: And that within the same town and the country nigh adjoining to the same lie divers and many poor, needy, lame and impotent people, which daily have succour and relief of the said Monastery: with other more like good considerations herein not mentioned, which shall not only seem for the common-weal but also for maintaining of the King his Grace's said town and his poor subjects the inhabitants of the same town and the country nigh adjoining to the same, by whom your said Orators, for the true declaration of the premises, are contented to be reported. And your said Orators, during their lives, according to their bounden duties, shall pray unto Almighty God for the preservation of your good Lordship's estate, long to endure to his pleasure. Amen."

However, all the glory was departed now, except that possibly—ten years after the second John Washbourne had come into the Bengeworth property—poor, desolated Evesham just for a moment woke from its lethargy. This was at the time of the temporary return of England to the Roman Obedience when it seems possible that Cardinal Pole came here in 1556 as Papal Legate and held a visitation, but there is no actual proof that such was the case.

The village of Bengeworth doubtless suffered with Evesham in the changes which the Dissolution had caused, although the farmers there could always find the town very useful to them as a centre from which to dispose of their produce, and Leland, writing soon after the destruction of the Abbey had been commenced, says: "The market is very celebrate."

As the years passed on the Bailiffs and the inhabitants of the town began to grow restive under the arbitrary rule of Sir Philip Hoby and of the succeeding mesne lords. At the Dissolution Sir Philip had received letters patent which practically conveyed to him the whole town of Evesham with great jurisdictionary privileges there. Amongst these privileges Sir Philip reserved to himself the right of appointing the Steward of the Court Leet, and to further increase his power in the town he persuaded the chief inhabitants to agree to a plan by which the jury nominated six candidates, three from either parish of the town, for the office of bailiff, and of these six the steward of the Leet

acting under instruction, would "prick" or indicate the two to be chosen. Curiously enough, however, when Queen Elizabeth, in 1583, questioned Sir Edward Hoby's right to control the courts of the town, the inhabitants sided with the overlord, and disturbances became very numerous, and almost culminated in a riot in 1585. In April of that year the Queen's steward arrived at Evesham and demanded entrance to the Town Hall—that is to say, the present Town Hall which had been then "lately builded"—as we find in the Exchequer Depositions.* He charged the two town sergeants in the Queen's name to serve the Court, but they refused and kept the door "with great staves and iron spikes in the end." The Queen's steward was thus compelled to hold the court in the open space beneath the Hall, but the conduct of the Evesham boys, apparently unrestrained by either the Bailiffs or the populace, deprived it of all dignity. They hauled a "cooken-stool" along "through the face of the court," with a boy sitting on it, saying of the steward: "He preacheth! He preacheth!" while they made a great noise, halloing and crying: "A Steward! A Steward!" "A court! A court!" "A jury! A jury!" and "The foreman of the jury should be set by the heels!" Other untoward circumstances occurred, and finally Sir Edward took the whole matter before the Court of Exchequer, where certain arrangements were made, but the general administration of the town continued as before.

*Exch. Dep. 29 Eliz. East. No. 12 P.R.O.

The second John Washbourne, who was growing old at the time when these stirring events took place in Evesham, was doubtless acquainted with all the circumstances of them, for he and his son John must have often driven across the rapidly decaying Old Bridge—uncared for by anyone since the Dissolution—to the Evesham markets, where there would be much conversation on the matter which was so present to the minds of the townsfolk.

The third John Washbourne came into possession of the Bengeworth property when his father died in 1593, and it was about this time—the date cannot be fixed with certainty—that there occurred at Evesham an incident which set the whole town and neighbourhood talking, and one of which Shakespeare must have heard, or possibly he may have witnessed it himself, although it must be said at once that there is no direct evidence that he ever visited Evesham.

In the play of *Troilus and Cressida*, Act III. Scene 3, Shakespeare makes Ulysses tell his love-embarrassed colleague that "the fool slides o'er the ice that you should break; and this curious imagery is all the more interesting as suggesting that Shakespeare must have had present in his mind a somewhat remarkable incident which occurred at Evesham about this time upon one winter-day, and to which the lines spoken by Ulysses could perfectly apply.

It seems that one winter the players of Lord Chandos of Sudeley had been acting at Evesham,

and amongst the members of the company was Robert Armin, who was afterwards one of Shakespeare's own professional colleagues, Armin subsequently made a collection of tales respecting Fools. The book was issued in 1605, under the title of "Foole Vpon Foole, or Six Sortes of Sottes," and a second edition appeared in 1608 entitled "The Nest of Ninnies." In the course of the book is this interesting passage:—

"In the towne of Esam, in Worcestershire, Jack Miller being there borne was made much of in every place. It happened that the Lord Shandoze's players came to towne, and played there; which Jack, not a little loved, especially the clowne, whom he would imbrace with a joyful spirit, and call him Grumball, for so he called himselfe in gentlemen's houses, where he would imitate players doing all himselfe, king, gentleman, clowne and all; having spoken for one, he would sodainly goe in and againe returne for the other; and stammering as he did make much mirth; to conclude he was a right innocent, without any villany at all. When these players I speak of had done in the towne, they went to Partior, and Jack swore he would goe all the world over with Grumball. It was then a great frost new begun, and the haven was frozen over thinly; but heere is the wonder—the gentleman that kept the Hart, an inne in the town that looked to the river-side to Partior, lockt up Jack in a chamber next the

haven, where he might see the players passe by; and they of the towne, loth to leave his company, desired to have it so; but he, I say, seeing them goe by, creepes through the window, and said, I come to thee, Grumball. The players stood all still to see further. He got down very dangerously, and makes no more adoe, but venters over the haven, which is by the long bridge, as I gese some forty yards over; yet he made nothing of it, but my hart aked all the way. When he was come unto me I was amazed, and took up a brick-bat, which lay there by, and threw it, which no sooner fell upon the ise but it burst. Was not this strange that a fool of thirty yeeres was borne of that ise which would not endure the fall of a brick-bat? But everyone rated him for the deeds, telling him the danger. He considered his fault, and knowing faults should be punished he intreated Grumball, the clowne, who he so deerly loved to whip him but with rosemary, for that hee thought would not smart. But the players in jest breecht him till the blood came, which he tooke laughing, for it was his manner ever to weepe in kindnesse and laugh in extreames. That this is true mine eyes were witnesses, being then by."

The truth of this strange story is well supported by the accuracy of its local details. The Hart Inn was the White Hart Inn, which still stands in Bridge Street, just upon the ridge of the



Old St. Peter's Church, Bengeworth.
Demolished in 1872.

hill and now an inn no longer, although flourishing as such until the coaching days ended. From the back windows it would have been quite possible for Jack Miller to have seen the players passing along the road on the Bengeworth side of the river as they set out for "Partiar"—Persnore, some six miles away—although one is inclined to think that Armin confused the two neighbouring signs of the White Hart and the Crown when he described the incident some years after it took place, and that it really was from the windows of the latter hostel which is considerably nearer the Avon, that Miller emerged upon his desperate course.

In 1596 the third John Washbourne married Martha Stevens (to whom Edward Timbrell refers as his sister, v. p. 58). There is evidence that at this period the condition of affairs at Evesham was going from bad to worse, and the century closed sadly upon the town. However, in its last year there came to Evesham a man who was to leave an honoured name behind him, and who was to play a considerable part in the creation of a great improvement in the condition, governmental and social, of the town. Lewes Bayly, afterwards Bishop of Bangor, was appointed Vicar of All Saints Church on September 22nd, 1600—the two parishes of All Saints and St. Lawrence were not united until 1662—and three years later he was appointed as tutor to Henry, Prince of Wales, eldest son of James I. It is evident that Lewes Bayly soon obtained the affection and confidence of the young Prince, for doubtless he was an important factor in the obtain-

ing of Evesham's first Charter of Incorporation granted on March 2, 1604, so the preamble sets forth, "at the request of the King's eldest son, Prince Henry." It is not necessary to consider the terms of this Charter, except to note that the two Bailiffs were still continued who, with twelve burgesses chosen as Aldermen and other twelve as Capital Burgesses, formed the Common Council; and that a provision was made that "the village of Bengeworth shall be under the government of the Borough of Evesham. However, matters did not run at all smoothly at first and, for some reason now unknown, the condition of Bengeworth seems to have become worse after the Charter had been granted, so, in 1605—the year of the Gunpowder Plot—it was repealed, and a new Charter was granted on April 3rd, which remains to this day the governing Charter of the Borough. By this Charter Bengeworth became incorporated with Evesham and, as the third John Washbourne was resident in Bengeworth at this time and was named in the Charter, it is interesting to give in full the article in it which refers to the straggling village which now became a part of Evesham. It is as follows:—

And whereas we are informed that our town of Bengeworth in the said county of Worcester doth adjoin and lie near to the same borough of Evesham, and that many controversies, dissensions, offences, riots, and other violations and disturbances of our peace, and other abuses and misdeeds, are frequently

committed and perpetrated in the same town of Bengeworth, without any punishment and correction for defect of good rule and government within the said town, to the great damage, grief, disturbance and molestation as well of our residents and tenants within the aforesaid town as of the burgesses and inhabitants of the aforesaid borough of Evesham; by reason whereof our beloved subjects, as well the bailiffs, aldermen and burgesses of the borough of Evesham aforesaid, as the tenants, residents, and inhabitants of the said town of Bengeworth, have jointly and of their unanimous assent and consent humbly besought us that we would be pleased to show and extend our royal grace and munificence in that behalf, as well to the same bailiffs, aldermen and burgesses of the borough of Evesham, as to the aforesaid tenants, residents and inhabitants of the said town of Bengeworth; and that we for the better rule, government and improvement of the same borough and town would condescend to make, renew, and create, as well the said bailiffs, aldermen and burgesses of the borough of Evesham by whatsoever name or names of incorporation they have been heretofore incorporated, as the tenants, residents and inhabitants of our aforesaid town of Bengeworth, in the said county of Worcester, adjoining and lying near to the same borough of Evesham, into one body corporate and

politic, by the name of mayor, aldermen and burgesses of the borough of Evesham, in the county of Worcester, by our letters patent as to us should seem most meet.

We therefore willing that from henceforth for ever as well in our said borough of Evesham as in our aforesaid town of Bengeworth there should be continually one certain and undoubted method of and for the keeping of our peace and the rule and government of the same borough and town and our people there residing and of others resorting thither; and that the borough and town aforesaid from henceforth for ever may be and remain a borough of peace and quiet, to the dread and terror of evil doers and for the reward and support of the good; and that our peace and other deeds of justice and good government shall and may the better be able to be kept there; and hoping that if the said bailiffs, aldermen and burgesses of the borough aforesaid, and the aforesaid tenants, residents, and inhabitants of the aforesaid town of Bengeworth and their successors, shall be able to enjoy of our grant more ample honours, liberties and privileges, then they will consider themselves bound more especially and strongly to do and perform such services as they are able to us our heirs and successors; and also at the humble petition and request of our most dear and well-beloved first-born son the lord Prince Henry,

being the first petition which he hath made to us in our Kingdom of England, of our especial grace and of our certain knowledge and mere motion have created, ordained, constituted, declared and granted, and by these presents for us our heirs and successors do ordain create, constitute, declare and grant that the said borough of Evesham and the aforesaid town of Bengeworth in our county of Worcester, and the bounds, limits and precincts of the same borough and town, from henceforth for ever may and shall be adjoined and united and shall be one undivided and free borough of itself. And that as well the aforesaid bailiffs, aldermen and burgesses of the said borough of Evesham, as the aforesaid tenants, residents and inhabitants of the town of Bengeworth aforesaid and their successors, whether they have been heretofore lawfully incorporated or not, from henceforth for ever without any question or ambiguity hereafter to be made, may and shall be by force of these presents one body corporate and politic, in deed, fact and name, by the name of mayor, aldermen and burgesses of the borough of Evesham in the county of Worcester.

In such ponderous terms was Bengeworth included in the borough of Evesham, and the Charter proceeds to define its new limits, mentioning "all the houses, mills, fields, lands and places" in Bengeworth. The first Mayor is appointed in

the person of Robert Allen who, curiously enough, was expelled the Council in 1612 because "he hath lately joined himself and ridden up and down with those that would oppose themselves to the Council." Seven Aldermen are chosen; also twelve Capital Burgesses and twenty-four Assistants. As the third John Washbourne was appointed as one of these Capital Burgesses, it is interesting to note the names of his eleven colleagues, viz., Sir David Fowles, Lewes Bayly, Philip Gardiner Senr., Bartholomew Momford, James Michell, Edward Walker, Edward Bowland, Henry Smith, Richard James Senr., Gilbert Smith and William Robins—all of them men of good family and substance.

The Charter made many other provisions of no present interest but, as has been already suggested, as the Washbournes must have often attended the Evesham markets and fairs, it may be noted that the Charter appointed two markets every week for ever: one on Monday, the other on Friday. There were to be three annual fairs, and during all these markets and fairs a Court of Piepowder must be held, at which the Mayor was to preside with the Chamberlain in attendance on him. This Court, it seems, sat in the open basement of the Town Hall, and it is small wonder that a later resolution of the Council provided that the Mayor should have two gowns, one thick and one thin. All the members of the Corporation at this time wore gowns when acting officially, but later in the century the custom fell into abeyance, and was not revived until 1724.

The Minutes Book of the Corporation contain no reference to any work undertaken by the body—other than the election of succeeding Mayors—until May 26, 1608, when John Washbourne was present and signed the Minutes. From them it appears that opposition still troubled the Council, and especially was this the case with Francis Dingley or Dineley, of Charlton, a large landowner in the neighbourhood. He and his children—he had eleven sons and eight daughters—are accused by the Council in that “ever sithence it pleased His Majesty to incorporate this borough, they have enrayed themselves against the whole incorporation and most part of the inhabitants of the same.” The Council decided that “no person or persons whatsoever in the Borough shall be reconciled, otherwise than in Christian charity, with Francis Dingley or any of his children unless with the Council’s consent.” This, one would think, was a rather futile decision, and of less value than their further agreement that no Dingley should ever bear any office of place or trust in the town, or be admitted to the Mayor’s Public Feasts. This order was in process of time relaxed, with disastrous results to the honour of the Corporation.*

This May meeting was a long one, and before before it closed the Council made another order, the terms of which throws an interesting light on a custom of that time. One, Richard Harris, had

* v. A Council Tragedy: Old Times Recalled. Seventh Paper.
 (“Evesham Journal,” March, 1902.)

deceased, "but by what means is yet doubtful." It appears that there existed a strong suspicion locally that Harris was "a felon of himself, which God forbid," wrote the Chamberlain, "leaving behind him a wife and four children." So, according to law, the Council placed a sequestration upon his goods until the Coroner's inquest had been held, and decided that even if the verdict should be one of suicide, yet the wife of the deceased should have "the selling and disposing of the goods for the better relief of her and her children." This was a benevolent act on the part of the Corporation, for in those days a suicide forfeited to the Crown "all his chattels whatsoever which he holds, either jointly with his wife or in her right," and this practice was only abolished by the Act of 33 and 34 Victoria, cap. 23. But there was a limit to the Council's magnanimity towards the dead man's wife and children, for it was also decided that if the sale of the goods realised more than £100, the surplus was to be distributed amongst the poor of the Borough in a certain proportion. At the same time the Council took care to defend themselves about any possible suit which might arise "about the intermeddling or disposing of the goods" by decreeing that in such a case, "such portions shall be deducted out of the money of the said widow and children, as shall supply and satisfy the charges that shall grow by reason of such suit or trouble."

"John Washburne," thus he wrote it:—

John Washburne — signed his

name to the Minutes five times that day, and was no doubt glad to get home again to his wife and children, his eldest boy, John, being now eleven years old.

He was very assiduous in his attendance at the Council meetings, and when the Plague beset Evesham in the autumn of 1610 he took his share in the deliberations and arrangements which were made to cope with the visitation. He signed the Minutes of a meeting held on October 2, of that year, when this resolution was made:—

Whereas it hath pleased God to laye his hande of visitacon uppon this Burrough by means whereof (as it hath been observed) many persons of good note and worth and such as should be a staye and thanksgiving to the government of the place have and do withdraw themselves out of this burrough into ye Countrye leaving the people in the said Towne (as much as in them lyes) destituted of helpe and comforte which ye presence of ye better parte mighte much be increased and comforted. Therefore it is by ye Maior and Comon Councill of this Burroughe this day enacted and ordered that none of the Comon Councell, [or] Assistants of this Burrough shall from henceforth departe out of ye limits and precincts of the said Burrough to reside and inhabit elsewhere during the time of this Visitacon upon paine of tenn pounds.

Other restrictions were also imposed, and the town was divided into "limits," each of which was to be "kept and looked after by a Justice of the Peace and two assistants," and no dweller within the town was allowed to leave it without the license of the Mayor, upon pain of a forfeit of five pounds.

The coming of the Plague to Evesham has provided us with some idea of the insanitary condition of the borough at that time. First of all, the Council found it necessary immediately to order that "all inhabitants (in this infectious tyme) shall keepe in and detayne in their severall houses their pigges, swyne and hogges and no more hereafter permit or suffer them to wander out of their houses in the streetes upon payne of forfeitynge for everye pigg xii.d." Later on, in the following December when the Plague had probably spent itself—the Council again met and proceeded to discuss further sanitary reforms and the Minutes describe how the inhabitants lay "noisome mixomes and dunghills in the streetes of this burrow (which are found by good experience to bee very noysome and contagious for the increase of infectious diseases, especially of ye plague), as also by permitting ye streetes to be unpaved and by not clensing ye streetes and by laying carrion, offalls, tymber, stones, and other perprestures in ye streetes of this burrow and in not scouring ye gutters and other places for avoyd-ance of water." To prevent these offences the Council ordered that every householder should, under penalty, clear and cleanse the ground before



The old Grammar School: Evesham: about the year 182

This etching was made by Mr. Edmund H. New after a critical examination of the building in the year 1911.

his house, and continue to do so once every week; that he should repair his pavement where necessary, and that he should never again allow such a disgraceful state of affairs to exist. Finally, a scavenger was appointed, the Council enacting that "whosoever shall interrupt him in the several respects of his duty shall be fined twenty shillings."

John Washbourne was not present at this December meeting, nor was he present at another meeting held a few weeks afterwards, when the Council passed an interesting resolution concerning licensing reform, and appointed a Common Brewer for the whole town, the monopoly being granted to Philip Parsons, who was one of his friends.

John Washbourne next attended the Council on January 11, 1610-11, when Sir Thomas Bigge, "high and senior Alderman," representing Evesham in Parliament, found it necessary to resign his position on the Council; and he was also present on April 5, 1611, when a new Headmaster of the Grammar School was chosen. Most probably his boys, John and William, were pupils there at the time. He did not attend many more meetings, and he signed the Minutes for the last time on January 10, 1612-13. Then on August 30, 1614, his friend, Philip Parsons, resigned his place as Alderman, and, to quote the exact terms of the Minute:—

Also att the same tyme Mr. John Washbourne
one of the Comon Councell and a Capitall Bug-
gesse of the said Burrough being willing did

resigne his said place for many causes and impedymnts unto the said Maior Aldermen and Burgesses to the end there may be one other able and sufficyent man to be elected for supply of the said Company in the Roome of him the said John Washeborne.

Thus terminated John Washbourne's connection with the Corporation, and the name has never since appeared in the Borough Minutes. The years now passed on uneventfully in Evesham, and in 1618 young John Washbourne was married to Margery Moore, daughter of Robert Moore, of Evesham. The first child, Mary, was born the next year and baptised at Old St. Peter's Church, Bengeworth, at the font which now lies shattered and derelict in the ruined porch—all that remains of the Old Church, which was pulled down in 1872. Some years ago it was the generous and natural wish of an American descendant of John Washbourne to restore the font and have it placed in the present St. Peter's Church, but the offer was ignored by the ecclesiastical authority to whom it was made. To this font was also brought in 1620, a little boy, the first son of John and Margery Washbourne, to receive the name of John, and thus continue it in the family. In 1622 another son, Philip, was baptised at Bengeworth, but died the same year. That name, however, was given to a third boy, whose birth is not registered at Bengeworth, and who was the last child of the family. These children were destined to know little of their grandfather, who

was now old and also blind, and who died on August 5, 1624. His wife, Martha, died the next year, being the first year of the reign of Charles I., and in which a Lay Subsidy was made upon the Borough of Evesham, which contains this item:—

John Washbourne in bonis. . . iij.li. viij.s.

That same year the fourth John Washbourne was a Churchwarden of St. Peter's, and probably it was not until several years later that he decided to emigrate to America. It has been suggested that he possibly made this decision in 1626, in which case he would have been parted from his wife and his young children, the eldest of whom was only seven, for nearly ten years, a thing which strikes one as being very unlikely. Certainly he was at Duxbury, Mass., in 1632, for he had a legal action there in that year. If we suppose then that he left England in 1631, there were still four years to elapse before he was joined by his wife and his two boys, for, from Hotten's List of Emigrants, (1874 ed. p. 57) quoting a certificate preserved in the Public Record Office, we find:—

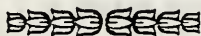
1635. April 13th, sailed for New England in the Elizabeth and Ann, Roger Cooper, master, with certificates from the Mayor of Evesham and Minister of the Parish:—

Marjorie Washborne, aged 49.

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Jo. Washborne, 14 | } 2 sonnes. |
| Phillipp Washborne, 11 | |

It will be noted that the eldest child, Mary, is not mentioned in the Certificate. She may have died before the family left Bengeworth, or it is conceivable that she had married, or had preferred to remain at home with some of her relations or friends. Unfortunately the Bengeworth Registers can throw no light on this point, as there is a big gap in the entries just at the period, from 1622-1652. Probably John Washborne sold his Bengeworth property to his relation, Giles Washbourne, who had come from Bretforton, and who died in 1636. With the departure of Marjorie Washbourne and her children to join John Washbourne in America the associations of that branch of the family with Bengeworth and Evesham apparently ceased.

The family name was well represented in the borough for many years after 1635, the Bengeworth Registers containing forty-six references to it between the period from 1660 to 1812, and there are other references in the Evesham Registers. The name is now quite obsolete there, but we have seen that there are still bearers of the name living in the neighbourhood.



CHAPTER III.

THE WASHBOURNE TILE FROM EVESHAM ABBEY.

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In order to ascertain the site and proportions of the Abbey Church of Evesham, Mr. Edward Rudge, the proprietor of the site and demesne lands granted to Sir Philip Hoby by Henry VIII., July 30, 1542, caused an excavation to be made there in the year 1811. The foundations of three sides of the Chapter House, and two stone coffins, were the first objects brought to light. For many succeeding summers the excavations were continued. The floors of the nave, transept and crypts were of plaster and, remaining perfect, formed an unerring guide to the workmen. In some places the tiles were found in their original positions, but generally their impressions only existed. Many of these tiles were conveyed to Abbey Manor, Evesham, the seat of the Rudge Family, and here they are still preserved. They are mostly five inches square, and probably came from the Malvern kiln in the Fifteenth Century. Sacred monograms form the adornment of many of them, whilst there are several bearing the coats-of-arms of families connected with the Abbey. Of these one is of great interest to us, for it displays

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the arms of Washbourne : Argent on a fess between six martlets Gules three cinquefoils of the field.* This tile is now in the possession of Mrs. Warren Kelsey, Rauhala, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, U.S.A., to whom it was presented in 1910, by Mrs. E. C. Rudge, who still possesses portions of a similar tile. As there has been an inclination in some quarters to attribute the coat-of-arms displayed on this tile to Beauchamp of Powyck, it may be as well to state here that the old Beauchamp of Powyck bore : Gules a fess between six martlets Or. (nothing on the fess). Beauchamp of Newland and Powyck, two hundred years later bore : Gules a fess between six billets Or a canton ermine ; and some of the younger branches of the first bore it within a "bordure argent."

There is no known record that any Washbourne was a benefactor to Evesham Abbey.

* Arg. on a fess. betw. six martlets gu. three cinquefoils of the field. WASHBOURNE, Washbourne and Wichenford, co. Worcester, temp. Edward III.; Visitation of Worcestershire (Papworth's Ordinary of British Armorial, p. 809).



The Arms of Washbourne.

(From a 15th Century Tile found in Evesham Abbey).

CHAPTER IV.

THE WASHBOURNE CREST.

The crest of the Washbourne Family is: On a wreath a bundle of flax argent, surmounted by another wreath argent and gules, thereon flames proper.

Tindal, in his History of Evesham (published in 1794) notes, quoting Habingdon, that in the west window of the south aisle of Old St. Peter's Church, Bengeworth, were the names of John Washbourne and Richard Cawie,* benefactors; and he also refers to a coat of arms in the same window which was not associated in any way with these benefactors.

When Old St. Peter's Church was demolished in 1872, all vestiges of any stained glass it possessed then disappeared. The years passed by and then in 1906, under circumstances which may be almost described as romantic, two enthusiastic American descendants of the Bengeworth Washbournes who were then staying in Evesham, succeeded in obtaining information that a parcel of the glass was still in existence.

* There was a Richard Cawthrie of the Parish of St. Helen's, Worcester. He died in 1593.

The thought had occurred to them that if the name of John Washbourne figured in a window in the church, it was possible that the arms of the Washbournes might have been there also, or, at any rate, a portion of the coat may have remained in existence. And there was also the involved reference of Habingdon in their minds.

The Rev. J. H. Davenport (op. cit. p. 36) says "Habingdon's description of the arms in Bengeworth Church points to the fact that this branch used the family arms and maintained a good position :—

In the east window of the southe Ile Orate pro anima Willielmi Chyryton. In the west windows of the southe Ile Party per cheueron Asure and Gules, 3 cups covered Or. 2 and 1. I thincke should be Boteler. And theare John Washborne and Richard Carvis (I thincke).

It could not be claimed, however, that this was clear evidence that Habingdon actually noted the family arms of Washbourne in the window. It seems much more likely that he noted the names, and not the arms, of John Washbourne and Richard Carvis or Carvie, and a comparison of the above passage with that in Tindal (p. 240 of his History of Evesham) is interesting. Tindal says :—

In the east window of the south aisle:—

Orate pro animabus Willielmi Chyryton. . . .

In the west window of the south aisle :—

Party per chevron Azure and Gules, three cups covered Or. In the same window are the names of John Washborne and Richard Cawie, benefactors.

It certainly seems as if Tindal himself copied the inscriptions from the originals in the church, and then turned to Habingdon (1) for the heraldic description, for he appends a note that he himself "must not be considered as responsible for all these heraldic notices: being utterly ignorant of the science. All he (Tindal) could do has been to copy the MS. notes of Habingdon." So that Tindal may also have overlooked any heraldic remains of the Washbourne coat.

One morning during the demolition of the Old Church, the then Vicar of Bengeworth told his Parish Clerk that the glass of the windows was to be removed that day, and that he wished him to go down to the church and bring away all the pieces of stained glass that he could find. This was duly done and a quantity of the glass was wrapped in newspapers and deposited in the cellar of Bengeworth Vicarage. Many years afterwards, upon the death of the Vicar, the Clerk removed the parcel to his own house, where it remained until that eventful summer evening when the two American ladies succeeded in obtaining possession of it. The Parish Clerk had read in the Notes and Queries Column of the "Evesham Journal" a short article by one of the ladies entitled "The Washbournes of Bengeworth."

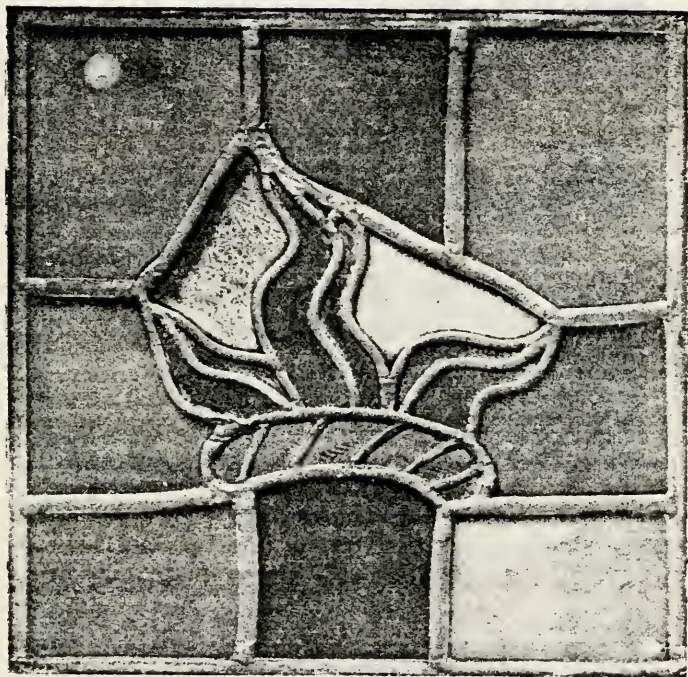
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1. Habingdon compiled his MSS. during the period 1606-1607. Nash, in his History of Worcestershire, published in 1781, does not mention these inscriptions in Bengeworth Church. Tindal published his History of Evesham in 1794, so that nearly one hundred and fifty years may have elapsed between the times when Habingdon and Tindal respectively made their copies.

worth,"* and forthwith he called at the hotel where the ladies were staying, taking the parcel of glass with him. Introducing himself, he told them that he had something in the parcel which they would find very interesting. The newspapers were soon unwrapped and the contents of the parcel were very carefully examined, with the result that amongst the many pieces of glass it contained there was found an heraldic "wreath, with flames proper thereon." This could scarcely be anything else but a portion of the Washbourne crest, beneath which would formerly have been the wreath or bundle of flax. It must be admitted that the tinctures of the wreath which should have been argent and gules proved to be vert and gules, and that there are portions of vert in the flames, but illegitimacy of tincture is, for various reasons, only too well-known to those who are interested in heraldry, and especially the heraldry of stained glass.

Only recently the arms of the Borough of Evesham have been painted in the Town Hall there in a manner which affords an interesting example of the infraction of the elementary rules of the science.

The day after the find had been made it was taken to London and placed under expert examination, the result being that the opinion already expressed was fully upheld, and there is every reason to believe that the remains of the glass which

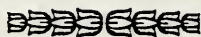
* v. "Evesham and Four Shires Notes and Queries," Vol. I., pp. 72-75.



Portion of The Washbourne Crest.

(From a Stained-Glass Window in Old St. Peter's Church, Bengeworth).

are figured herewith are those of a representation of the Washbourne crest formerly in a stained-glass window in Old St. Peter's Church, Bengeworth. Eventually the glass was taken to America, where it was framed and presented to the National Museum, Washington, D.C., by Mrs. Warren Kelsey, who, with her daughter, Miss Kate Kelsey, had had the good fortune to recover the glass at Evesham.



CHAPTER V.

THE EVESHAM AND THE WICHENFORD BRANCHES OF THE FAMILY.

In his excellent History of the Washbourne Family (first published in 1907) the Rev. J. H. Davenport states that the second son of John (8) of Wichenford, was identical with John Washbourne of Bengeworth, Evesham, husband of Emme, from whom he shows, by singularly complete evidence, that the American branches of the Family are descended. It must be admitted, however, that although this identification seems a reasonable probability it is by no means a certainty.

Mr. Davenport gives strong hypothetical reasons for his statement and, with his wide knowledge of the subject any other theory may be plainly untenable, but it has still to be borne in mind that there is no direct evidence for it in the Visitation pedigrees of the Wichenford branch of the family. Moreover, we have seen that Washbournes had lived in the neighbourhood of Evesham for at least two hundred years before John of Bengeworth had lands there, and further there is the evidence of a Fifteenth Century Washbourne tile in Evesham Abbey, to say

nothing of the possibility of a somewhat later Washborne coat-of-arms in a window in Old St. Peter's Church, Bengeworth.

Again, Mr. Davenport says (*op. cit.* p. 101), writing of the entries in the Bengeworth Registers, that :
 "Two others are worthy of notice as showing that the Ordways, though a Bengeworth family, were also connected with Wichenford. . . . :—

Under Baptisms :—

"1562. 6 Aug. 'Edmonde Adames, Edmond Milnar and John Ordway of Wickenford godfathers and Christian Phelpes godmothers.'

"1563. 23 Oct. 'Agnes Symons, Agnes Ordway, and Mary Dacle godmothers, and John Ordway filius Edwardi de Wickenford godfather.' "

"And in the Calendar of Wills at Worcester are the following wills or inventories:—

1558. Richard Ordymare of Wichenford.

1562. John Handye servant to Edward Ordweye of Wychwanford."

However, this suggested connection with Wichenford must give way to an ascertained connection of the above-named Ordways with Wickhamford, three miles from Bengeworth—and which is even to-day sometimes confused with Wichenford, some twenty miles distant. The Worcester Calendar of Wills (published in 1904) itself containing several instances of the error.

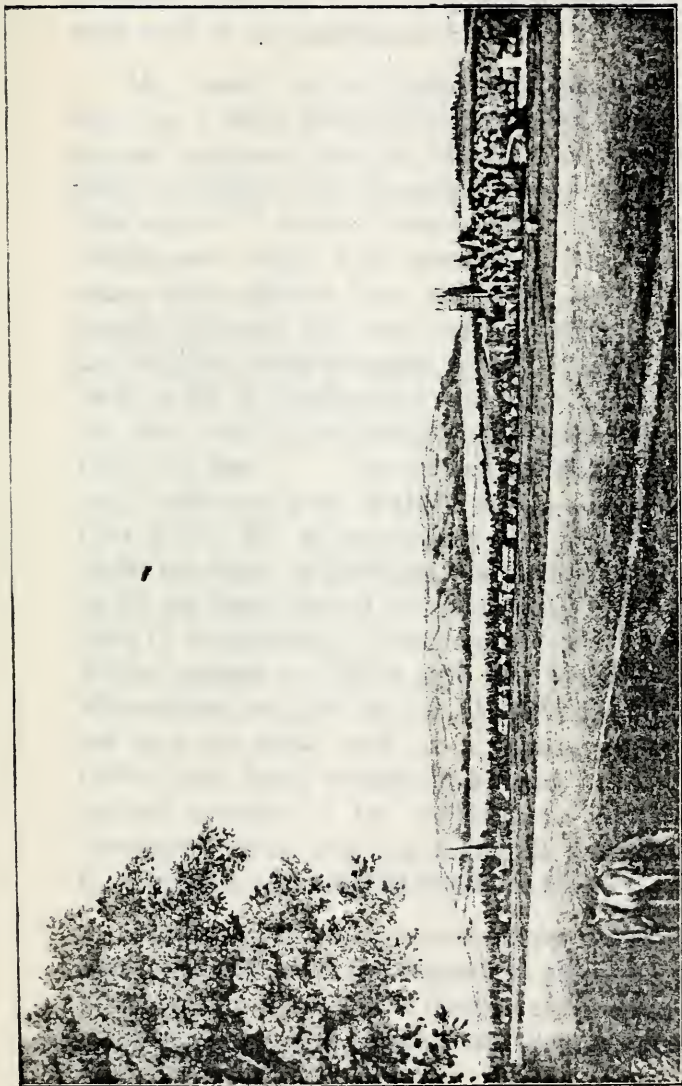
In the Wickhamford Registers these conclusive entries occur:—

1562. Johes Handye fuit sepultus septimo die maij.

1582. Johes Ordway filius Edi Ordway fuit sepult desimo sexto die maij.

1586. Edwardus Ordway fuit sepultus undecimo die decembr.

The Richard Ordymare mentioned by Mr. Davenport certainly was of Wichenford, but he was of the Family of Ordmare or Ordimar which then flourished in Worcester and its near vicinity. Mr. Davenport also notes the coming of Giles Washbourne from Wichenford to Bengeworth, and his marriage there to Anne Ordway in 1606, but there is no ascertained proof that he did come from Wichenford. Unfortunately the Wichenford Registers only date from 1690, and other possible sources of proof have failed to uphold or to gainsay the statement. It is noteworthy, too, that—with the one obvious exception of the name Washbourne—no other Wichenford name appears to figure in association with Evesham families, or any families in this neighbourhood, during the Sixteenth or Seventeenth Centuries. This statement is made with some reserve, for documentary evidences may be in existence other than those already consulted. These latter, however, substantiate the statement. Consequently it would appear that the actual connection of the Bengeworth Washbournes with the Wichenford Washbournes still needs definite proof,



Evesham from Bengeworth Leys. c. 1780.
(Reproduced from Nash's History of Worcestershire).

although there can be scarcely any doubt but that they were of the same stock.

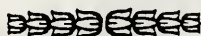
Mr. Peach, in his "Notes and Records" (p. 83), gives a letter dated 30 January, 1857, from that famous antiquary, the late Sir Thomas Phillipps, Bart., of Middle Hill, Broadway, near Evesham, who says :—"I believe there are two families of Washbourne which have descended from ancient times, quite distinct from each other during that period, although they may have originally been derived both from the same stock. One of these 'was seated at Washbourne and Wichenford' and the other lived at Bengeworth and Bretforton. . . . From this last . . . the earliest mention of which that I have met with, is about the time of Edward I. or Henry III., at which time they were tenants under the Abbot of Evesham, and I think remained so till the dissolution of the monasteries." In Mrs. Julia C. Washburn's "Genealogical Notes" (p. 19) is this passage :—"Burke says the Evesham and Wichenford branches of the Washbourne family are from the same stock, both coming from the Defford and Great Washbourne family . . . the earliest mention of the Washbourne family at Evesham is in the reigns of Henry III. and Edward I., when they occupied the Evesham Abbey lands."

Finally, of all the many side issues which have been followed up in the attempt to associate definitely the two Washbourne families of Evesham and of Washbourne and Wichenford, it may possibly be useful to note this one :—

| | | |
|------------------|----|-------------------------------|
| John Vampage | == | da. of Norman |
| | | Washbourne of Washbourne |
| | | and Vice-Comes of co. |
| | | Worcester, 1438-39, d. before |
| | == | 2 Oct. 1479-80. |
| Elizabeth da. of | | |
| Thomas Walter | | John Vampage. |



In the Sixteenth Century and later there were members of the Family of Walter living in Evesham, and 1558 a William Vampage died here. A copy of his will is in existence in the Worcester Probate Registry, and it contains a number of bequests to people who, however, were in no way associated with the Evesham Washbournes of that time. The close connection of the Washbourne family with Wichford began to cease in the last decades of the Seventeenth Century, but the Court property there continued in the family until it was sold in 1712.



CHAPTER VI.

THE SECOND GENERATION IN AMERICA.

We have already seen that John Washbourne, son of John and Margery Washbourne was born at Bengeworth, in 1620, and that he, with his mother and his brother, Philip, sailed for America in 1635, on the ship Elizabeth and Ann. They went to Duxbury, where they joined John Washbourne, the father. In 1645, the young John married at Duxbury, Mass., his wife's maiden-name being Elizabeth Mitchell. Her father was Experience Mitchell, one of the forefathers of the colony. He was with the pilgrims at Leyden, and came to Plymouth on the third ship, the Anne, 1623. There were eleven children of the marriage, seven boys and four girls, viz.:—

1. John, married Rebeckah Lapham.
2. Thomas, married (1) Abigail Leonard.
(2) Deliverance Packard.
3. Joseph, married Hannah Latham.
4. Samuel, born 1651 ; married Deborah Packard.
5. Jonathan, married Mary Vaughan.
6. Benjamin, died in Phipps' Expedition against Canada.
7. Mary, married Samuel Kinsley, 1694.

8. Elizabeth, married (1) James Howard.
(2) Edward Sealey.
9. Jane, married William Orcutt, jun.
10. James, married Mary Bowden, 1693.
11. Sarah, married John Ames, 1697.

John Washbourne, their father, died on 12 November, 1686, and the following is a complete transcript of his will and the inventory of his goods as recorded in Plymouth, Mass., Probate Office (Vol. I. p. 84), and which is now published for the first time:—

“These are to publish and declare to all to whom it may concerne that I John Washbourne senr. of Bridgewater in the colony of New Plimouth being through the mercy of God of sound judgment and memory do ordaine and make my last will and testament in manner following vizt.: Into the hands of God I comend my spirit believingly resigning up my soul into the everlasting arms of Gods mercy my body to be decently interred at the discretion of my executors: and for my outward estate I do will that after all my just debts and funeral expenses be fully paid my lands and other moveables be disposed of as followeth :

Imprs. I give to my wife Elizabeth Washbourne one bed one boulder one pillow two pair of sheets one blanket one coverlet two chests six bushels of Indian corn one bushel of barley—farther with respect to money which was my wives part whereof I have already laid out for her we are agreed that I should returne to her two pounds and ten shillings which I have already done

I give to my son John four score acres of upland in the place where he hath already built and what shall be found wanting of the four score acres in the said place shall be made up to him on the easterly side of my land next the south brooke more I give to him a lot of meadow in Cousters Kitchen lying between the lots of Samuel and James : more two lots of meadow lying in the great meadow above the great island more I give to him a whole purchase right in the undivided lands. Further my will is that my son John take care of my brother Phillip to provide for him and on that consideration I further give to my son John half a purchase right in my undivided lands and half a fifty acre lot not yet laid out ; further I give to him the improvement of a lot of meadow in the Great Meadow lying next to John Ames during my brother's life and after my brother's decease the one half of the lot shall be to my son James, and my son John shall enjoy the other half.

To my son Thomas I have already given twenty acres of upland which he hath exchanged for land where he hath built; more I have given him a lot of meadow in Cousters Kitchen lying on the outside northerly, I have also given him half a purchase right in the undivided lands of all which lands I have formerly given him deed. To my son Joseph I have given twenty acres of land lying at Satucket pond and a lot of meadow lying at Black Brooke I have otherwise done for him according to my ability and my will is that he therewith rest contented.

To my son Samuel I give thirty-five acres of land in the place where he hath already built at Quat-it-eguat joining to his Great lot there. More I give half a purchase right in the undivided lands. Also a lot of meadow lying up poor meadow river and joining to his own lot, more a lot of meadow in Cousters Kitchen lying on the outside southerly. Further I give to him thirty acres of land joining to him where he hath built and also a steer calf.

To my son Jonathan I give fifty acres of land lying on the outside of my land next the South Brooke and if he should come to settle upon it within the space of two years after the date of this my will he shall enjoy it as his own otherwise my sons John Samuel Benjamin and James shall enjoy the land being equally divided between them each of them paying to my son Jonathan fifty shillings in common pay; more I give to my son Jonathan a lot of meadow lying in the Great Meadow joining to a lot of Goodman Turners. Also half a purchase right in the undivided lands.

To my son Benjamin I give fifty acres of land which formerly was my fathers lot also a lot of meadow lying up Satucket River and joining to a lot of Samuel Wadsworths and half a purchase right in the undivided lands. Also two young steers a young horse a cow a bed an iron pot. To my younger son James when he shall come to age I give the land which lyeth between my son John and my son Benjamin butting on the River and

running in length till it meet with the butt of my son Samuel's land with my dwelling house and all outhousing thereunto belonging also a lot of meadow in Cousters Kitchen joining to a lot of Benjamin Willis and half a purchase right in the undivided lands. A fifty acre lot lying near Bear Swamp I give to my two sons John and Samuel to be equally divided between them. A lot of meadow lying in the mouth of Black Brooke I give to my three sons Samuel Jonathan and Benjamin to be equally divided between them. To my daughter Mary I give ten acres of land to be laid out : and one cow : To my daughter Elizabeth I give ye mare which they have in keeping and ten acres of land already layd out to my son in law her husband To my two daughters Mary and Elizabeth I give twenty acres of land lying down the Town River on the northerly side and joining to the lands of William Brett to be equally divided : To my daughter Jane I give twenty acres of land lying down Satucket River on the easterly side and joining to the lands of Samuel Allen : further I give to her one cow one heiffer a bed and an iron pot ; To my daughter Sarah I give twenty acres of land joining to my son Samuel's land near his house—further all my right and interest in the lands called the Majors purchase or in any other lands without the four mile my will is that it shall be equally divided between my sons John Thomas Samuel Jonathan Benjamin and James. My two old oxen I leave in the hands of my two sons John and Samuel to be sold when fit for sale and four pounds of the money to be disposed

of for my son Benjamin towards his building. I leave on the land which I intend to my son James : one horse two oxen one bull two cows with all the furniture for husbandry to be improved for the benefit of my two younger children James and Sarah and my will is that when these children come to age the principal be divided between them : By principal I intend the horse oxen and other cattle with the tools and furniture above mentioned ; For my trustees and overseers I do nominate my kind friend Mr. John Thomson of Middleborough and my brother Edward Mitchell I do nominate and ordaine my two sons John and Samuel executors of this my last will and testament revoking all other wills and testaments whatsoever ; Witness my hand and seal October 30th 1686 :

John Washbourne
his X mark.



Sealed and delivered in
the presence of
Thomas Hayward
Joseph Alden."

Probate June 8, 1687.

An Inventory of the Goods and Chattels of John Washbourne of the town of Bridgewater deceased

the 12th day of November 1686—which is as followeth—

| Imprimis. | £ | s. | d. |
|---|----|----|----|
| To money twenty six pounds ... | 26 | 00 | 00 |
| To wearing cloaths ... | 07 | 03 | 00 |
| To a bed and furniture ... | 02 | 00 | 00 |
| To a bed boulster pillow 2 coverlets sheets ... | 04 | 00 | 00 |
| To a bed and furniture ... | 03 | 10 | 00 |
| To another bed and furniture ... | 02 | 10 | 00 |
| To a bed 1 £ another bed and furniture 3 £ all ... | 04 | 00 | 00 |
| To sheets 2 £ yarn cotton woollen rem- nants of cloth 3£ 10s all ... | 05 | 10 | 00 |
| To brass and iron 5£ pewter and spoons 2£ 3s which in all is ... | 07 | 03 | 00 |
| To earthen ware and glass bottles 7s: woodden ware 3£ 15s. all ... | 04 | 02 | 00 |
| To wooll flax and tow 2£ 10s. hemp- seed 4s. which in all is ... | 02 | 14 | 00 |
| To a saddle and Pannel skins and leather ... | 02 | 00 | 00 |
| To Indian corne and rie and other grain ... | 13 | 00 | 00 |
| To sithes iron wedges and other tooles of iron ... | 01 | 10 | 00 |
| To chaine axes and hoes and pich forkes ... | 02 | 00 | 00 |
| To a cart wheels hoopes boxes plows and yoaks ... | 02 | 10 | 00 |
| To 2 whipsaws armes and amunition | 02 | 00 | 00 |
| To a Watchell cart rope and other things ... | 01 | 00 | 00 |
| To a winnowing sheet and baggs 10s. Books 1£ 10s. all ... | 02 | 00 | 00 |

| | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|----|----|
| To Bees Wax table cloth napkins and other things | ... | ... | 01 | 00 | 00 |
| To 2 chests 14s. bief and poark 3£ 10s. all is | ... | ... | 04 | 04 | 00 |
| To a Grindstone hemp flax and other things | ... | ... | 02 | 10 | 00 |
| To swine 2£ : sheep 3£ 12s. all | ... | ... | 05 | 12 | 00 |
| To 4 oxen and their fodder | ... | ... | 12 | 00 | 00 |
| To 6 cows and their fodder | ... | ... | 13 | 10 | 00 |
| To 5 young cattell and their fodder | ... | ... | 06 | 00 | 00 |
| To a horse and mare and their fodder | ... | ... | 03 | 00 | 00 |
| The sum totall if no mistake in casting up is one forty two pounds and eight shillings | ... | ... | 142 | 8 | 0 |

A true and faire prisall of the estate of John
Washbourne according to our best judgment
taken by us ye 19th day of November 1686 as
witness our hands

John Field

John Leonard.



APPENDIX.

I.

Extracts from "Lists of Emigrants to America, 1600-1700." Edited by John Camden Hotten, New York, 1874.

p. 36. From London Jany 2, 1634 to Virginia "in ye Mercht. Bonaventure." Joseph Washborn, age 22.

[Possibly this is the Joseph Washbourne, son of Giles Washbourne (d. 1636), noted by the Rev. J. H. Davenport as untraceable.]

p. 57. From London "xiiij^o Aprilis 1635." "In the Elizabeth and Ann Mr. Roger Coop [Cooper] bound for New England p. Cert: from the Maior of Evesham in com Worcr and from the Minister of y^e pish. of their Conformitie

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---|---|----|------------|
| Margerie Washborn | - | - | 49 | |
| Jo: Washborne | - | - | 14 | } 2 sonns. |
| Phillipp Washborne | - | - | 11 | |

p. 189. "Lists of the Livinge and Dead in Virginia Febr: 16th 1623" [Note. "i.e. 162 $\frac{1}{4}$ "]. "At the Eastern Shore" John Washborne. [The Eastern Shore is the peninsula between Chesapeake Bay and the Ocean, north from Cape Charles.]

p. 257. "Musters of the Inhabitants in Virginia 162 $\frac{1}{4}$." Elizabeth Cittie "John Washborne aged 25 in the Jonathan 1619." [Hampton and

Fortress Monroe at Old Point Comfort, on the main land west of Cape Charles and Cape Henry, are in the present Elizabeth City County. Possibly this is the John Washborne christened in London, May 20th, 1599.]

p. 263. "The Eastern Shore over the Baye"
"Servants. John Washborne age 30 in the Jonathan 1620" et al.

p. 425. Barbados. The Parish of St. Michaels. Burials. 1678, May 20. John Washburn.

II.

WILL OF EDWARD TIMBRELL, 1614.

The original copy of this Will, which is now published for the first time, is to be found in the Probate Registry at Worcester.

Offenham is two miles N.E. of Evesham. References to several of the persons mentioned in the above will be found in the Rev. J. H. Davenport's book on The Washborne Family, pp. 44-57:—

In the name of God Amen the first daye of Aprill Anno dni. 1614 I Edward Timbrell of Offerham in the County of Worcester yeoman being sicke in bodye but of good and perfect memory thanks be unto God doe willinglie and with a free hart make and ordayne this my last will and testament in manner and form following That is to say ffirst I commend my sowle into the hands of God my maker hoping assuredly throughe the onely

merits of Jesus Christ my Saviour and Redeemer to be made partaker of life everlasting in heaven and I comend my bodye to the earth whereof it is made And to be buried in the Churchyard of Offenham aforesaid. Item I give unto the pishe Church when I shall depart this life six shillings eight pence towards the buyinge of a Carpet or tablecloth which shall be most necessarie for the Communion table to be payed within one yeare after my decease Item I give unto my brother John Tymbrell one close called the greate Elme close with thappurtenances for and duringe his naturall life and after his deceasse then my will is that William Tymbrell one other of my brothers shall have and hould the said close with thappurtenances for and duringe his naturall life And after his deceasse then my will is That Thomas Tymbrell sonne of my said brother Thomas shall have and hould the said close called the greate Elme close with thappurtenances to him and his heires for ever Item I give and bequeath unto my sayed brother Thomas Tymbrell the sume of fortye shillings to be paid unto him within one yeare after my decease Item I give and bequeath unto my cosen William Tymbrell and my cosen Thomas Tymbrell xx.s. to be equally divided between them to be paidd unto them within one yeare after my deceasse Item I give and bequeath unto my Cosen and god-daughter Margaret Tymbrell xx.s. And to my cosen Grase Tymbrell vii. shillings to be payde unto them within one yeare after my decease Item I give and bequeath unto my said brother William Tymbrell

x.s. to be paidd unto him within one yeare after my deceasse Item I give and bequeath unto my sister Elleoner Haines six children that is to say John Richard Thomas William Robert and Amey the some of vj.li. to be equallye divided amongst them to be paidd unto them within one yeare after my deceasse Item I give and bequeath unto my sister Martha Washborn xx.s. Item I give and bequeath unto my cosen John Washborn vij. shillings And unto my god-child and cosen William Washborn xxx.s. And unto my cosen Jane Washborn xx.s. And unto my cosen Jone Washborn xx.s. to be paidd unto them within one yeare after my deceasse Item I give and bequeathe unto my cosen Elizabeth Tymbrell viij shillings to be paidd unto her within one yeare after my decease Item I give and bequeathe unto my god-daughter Mary Smith vj.viiij.d. to be paydd unto her within one yeare after my deceasse Item I give and bequeathe unto the poore of the pishe where I shall depart this life xx.s. to be distributed within one yeare after my deceasse Item all the rest of my goods and chattels moveable and unmoveable I give unto my brother John Tymbrell (my legacies debts and funeralls discharged) and I doe also make my said brother John Tymbrell my sole and whole Executor of this my last Will and Testament And doe further make my brothers William Tymbrell and Thomas Tymbrell the overseers of this my last will and testament. Witnesses—

ROBERT WHEELER.
 THOMAS MORRES.
 THOMAS SPRAG.

III.

Nash, in his History of Worcestershire (ii. 222), states that Anne Washbourne, whose maiden name was Rede, of Boddington (a village between Tewkesbury and Cheltenham), and who married Anthony Washbourne about the year 1547, was Godmother to Ann Sandys. This Ann Sandys was the daughter of Edwin Sandys, Bishop of Worcester, and afterwards Archbishop of York. Her brother was Samuel Sandys, who bought Wickhamford Manor, near Evesham, and she was aunt to Sir Edwin Sandys, Governor of the Virginian Company, and to George Sandys, Colonial Treasurer, who went to Virginia in 1621. The William Brewster, who in 1575 was appointed by Archbishop Sandys "Recever of Scrooby in Nottinghamshire and Bailiff of the Manor House there in which the Separatist meetings for worship were held," was Father of Elder William Brewster, a passenger in the Mayflower. About the year 1644 his grandson, Jonathan Brewster, made the following entry concerning the sale of certain books from his father's library to:—

| Goodman Washborne | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|-------|
| Cases of Conscience | ... | ... | 2 6 |
| Clod Comandents | ... | ... | 3 0 |
| Calvin Joshuay | ... | ... | 1 6 |
| Christians deily Walke | ... | ... | 1 0 |
| Rogers esey : 5 | ... | ... | 2 6 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | | | 10 6 |

It is suggested that the John Washbourne who, in 1628, was London Secretary to the Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay Companies, may have obtained the appointment through the influence of a member of the Sandys family. John Washbourne, born at Bretforton in 1591, may well have been the man.

IV.

The name "Richard Washbourne" is still to be seen rudely scratched on the old oak wainscoting of the Friends' Meeting House at Evesham.

V.

On 16 January, 1672, a meeting of Friends was held at the house of John Washbourne in Bengeworth concerning the absence of one of their number, John Hawkeswood, from their meetings.

I John Washburne, husband-
man, of Benfe. worth, Gresham
Norcestershire, England
married Anne . . . 1546

II John Washburne, 700-
man, married Jane
Died 1593

III John Washburne
Capital Burfess of
Gresham married
Martha Dimbrell
Stevens. Died 1624

IV John Washburne
baptized in St Peter's
Benfe. worth and
later Church. warden
there married
Marjery. Sailer
More in 1618. He
went to Dutchbury
Massachusetts and
died in Bridgewater(?)
before 1670.

V John Washburne
baptized 1620, married
in 1645 Elizabeth
Cook Northwell and
died in Bridgewater

in 1686.

I Samuel Nashborn
born in Amherst in
1651 married Deborah
Packard and died in
Bridge Water in 1720.

II Josiah Nashborn
born in Bridge Water
in 1684. married in
1708 Waitstill ^{Blake} ~~Ames~~
and died in Bridge-
Water in 1719.

III Josiah born in
Bridge Water in 1718
married Leah Dunbar
Gobes and died in
Hingham in 1796
He was a yeoman
in the Revolution

IV Josiah born in
Hingham in 1755
was a soldier in the
Revolution, he served
in the General Court
of Massachusetts

and was a member
of the Convention that
adopted the first constitu-
tion of that Commonwealth.
He married in 1783.
Abigail King and died
in Raynham in 1841.

Israel Washburn born
in Raynham in 1784
was a Representative to the
General Court of Mass-
achusetts before the sepa-
ration of Maine. He
married in Lewiston
Maine in 1812 Martha
Livermore Benjamin
and died there in 1876.

Carl Wallader Coldeir
Washburn born in Liver-
more? Apr. 1818. - M. C.
1854 - Maj. Gen. Volunteers.
1862 - Governor of Wisconsin
1871 - U. S. L. of H. of N. 1873.
He married 1st Jan. 1849
Leannette Melvill Garr
of New York City and
died at Wreck Springs
Arkansas 14 May 1882 leaving
one Leannette G. W. Decker
of Philadelphia and
Hannu G. W. Taylor of
Washington D. C.

